

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Atty. Docket

MENNO ANNE TREFFERS ET AL

NL000741

Serial No.

Filed: CONCURRENTLY

Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FRO READING DATA FROM A DATA CARRIER
AND DATA CARRIER FOR USE IN THE APPARATUS AND METHOD

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination, please
amend the above-identified application as follows, where marked-up
version of the amended claims 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16,
21, 22, 23, and 25 is attached as Appendix A:

IN THE CLAIM

Please amend the claim as follows:

4. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said central
database (4) and said information database (51) are servers
connected via a network, in particular servers connected via the
Internet.
5. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said reading
means (21) is operative to read data representing a block of audio
information and to read a data identifier identifying said block of
audio information from the data carrier (1).

6. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said further information comprises data representing a block of audio information and wherein said processing means (26) is operative to reproduce said block of audio information.

7. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said processing means (26) is operative to display information on a monitor of a computer.

8. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said transmitting means (22) is operative to transmit an apparatus identifier identifying the apparatus and/or a carrier identifier identifying the data carrier (1).

12. An apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the apparatus and said information database (51) are servers connected via a network, in particular servers connected via the Internet.

13. An apparatus as claimed in claim 9, also comprising information collection means (44) for collecting information concerning the requests for further information from the apparatus (2), in particular using said data identifier, an apparatus identifier identifying the playback apparatus and/or a carrier identifier identifying the data carrier received from said apparatus (2).

14. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said data carrier (1) is a digital data carrier, in particular a CD, DVD, SACD or flash card.

15. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said address of the information database (51) comprises the Internet address, in particular the URL, of said information database.

16. An apparatus as claimed in claim, wherein said data identifier comprises a title identifier identifying a title of the data to be read from the data carrier (1), in particular a title of a piece of music or video.

21. A data carrier for storing data to be read and processed by an apparatus as claimed in claim 1 and for storing a data identifier identifying said data, said data identifier being provided for transmission to a central database requesting further information related to said read data and for reception of a response message from said central database, which message comprises an address of an information database storing said further information and/or said further information requested by said central database from said information database while using said data identifier, said further information received from said information database via said central database or requested from said information

database while using said address received from said central database being provided for processing by said apparatus.

22. A data carrier for storing data to be read and processed by an apparatus as claimed in claim 1 and for storing a carrier identifier identifying the data carrier, said carrier identifier being provided for transmission to a central database.

23. A method according to claim 19, comprising the step of associating an address of an information database (51) with one or more data identifiers.

25. A method according to claim 9, wherein the contents of the response message is dependent on whether or not the apparatus (2) reading said data is registered.

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment to the claims was made solely to avoid filing the claims in the multiple dependent form so as to avoid the additional filing fee.

The claims were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserves all rights they may have under the Doctrine of Equivalents. Applicants furthermore reserves their right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein at a later time during the prosecution of this application or continuing applications.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix A

Version with Markings
to Show Changes Made to the Claims

The following are marked up versions of the amended claims:

1
4. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 ~~ex-2~~, wherein said central database (4) and said information database (51) are servers connected via a network, in particular servers connected via the Internet.

5. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 ~~ex-2~~, wherein said reading means (21) is operative to read data representing a block of audio information and to read a data identifier identifying said block of audio information from the data carrier (1).

6. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, ~~2-ex-5~~, wherein said further information comprises data representing a block of audio information and wherein said processing means (26) is operative to reproduce said block of audio information.

7. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 ~~ex-2~~, wherein said processing means (26) is operative to display information on a monitor of a computer.

8. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 ~~ex-2~~, wherein said transmitting means (22) is operative to transmit an apparatus identifier identifying the apparatus and/or a carrier identifier identifying the data carrier (1).

12. An apparatus as claimed in claim 9 ~~ex-10~~, wherein the apparatus and said information database (51) are servers connected via a network, in particular servers connected via the Internet.

13. An apparatus as claimed in claim 9 ~~ex-10~~, also comprising information collection means (44) for collecting information concerning the requests for further information from the apparatus (2), in particular using said data identifier, an apparatus identifier identifying the playback apparatus and/or a carrier identifier identifying the data carrier received from said apparatus (2).

14. An apparatus as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said data carrier (1) is a digital data carrier, in particular a CD, DVD, SACD or flash card.

15. An apparatus as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said address of the information database (51) comprises the Internet address, in particular the URL, of said information database.

16. An apparatus as claimed in any of the preceding claims claim, wherein said data identifier comprises a title identifier identifying a title of the data to be read from the data carrier (1), in particular a title of a piece of music or video.

21. A data carrier for storing data to be read and processed by an apparatus as claimed in claim 1 ~~or~~ 2 and for storing a data identifier identifying said data, said data identifier being provided for transmission to a central database requesting further information related to said read data and for reception of a response message from said central database, which message comprises an address of an information database storing said further information and/or said further information requested by said central database from said information database while using said data identifier, said further information received from said information database via said central database or requested from said information database while using said address received from said central database being provided for processing by said apparatus.

22. A data carrier for storing data to be read and processed by an apparatus as claimed in claim 1 ~~or~~ 2 and for storing a carrier identifier identifying the data carrier, said carrier identifier being provided for transmission to a central database.

23. A method according to claim 19 ~~or 20~~, comprising the step of associating an address of an information database (51) with one or more data identifiers.

25. A method according to claim 9 ~~or 10~~, wherein the contents of the response message is dependent on whether or not the apparatus (2) reading said data is registered.